Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12057 201109Z ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7450

SECRET CAIRO 12057

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: XF, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "PEACE PROPOSAL"

REF: STATE 168595

- 1. MET WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING TO GIVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE FOR SADAT ON PRIMIN BEGIN'S "PEACE PROPOSAL."
- 2. FAHMY'S REACTION CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF BEMUSEMENT. HE NOTED THAT PRACTICALLY ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN LEAKED BY DAYAN AND ARE WIDELY KNOWN. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR MESSAGE CONTAINED NO EXPRESSION OF US VIEWS ON THE BEGIN PROPOSAL. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT YOUR MESSAGE INDICATES THAT WE SEE PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPOSAL AND HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT WITH RESPECT TO IT. POINT OF MESSAGE IS CLEARLY DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING PUBLIC DEBATE ON BEGIN PROPOSAL PENDING YOUR TRIP TO THE AREA IN EARLY AUGUST. I URGED GOE TO GO ALONG WITH OUR SUGGESTION AND AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT. YOU WILL WANT TO HEAR GOE'S REACTIONS WHEN YOU COME AND GET COMMENTS AND IDEAS BEFORE WE ARRIVE AT ANY CONCLUSIONS OF OUR OWN. SECRET

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3. ALTHOUGH FAHMY OUTLINED ALL SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF BEGIN "PEACE PROPOSAL", AS THEY WERE ALREADY ANNOUNCED BY DAYAN, HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON THEM. HE DID SAY IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPECT ARAB GOVTS NOT TO GO PUBLIC WHEN ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY DONE SO AND BEGIN WILL TODAY MAKE A FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN PRIVATE, THEN BOTH PARTIES SHOULD ADHERE TO THE OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING PREMATURE PUBLICITY FOR THEIR IDEAS. HE UNDERTOOK TO SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA AT ONCE, BUT SAID HE WOULD MAKE NO RECOMMENDATION. HE WOULD LEAVE IT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF THE "PEACE PROPOSAL" BY DAYAN AND BEGIN, SADAT ALSO FEELS SOMETHING SHOULD BE SAID ON THE EGYPTIAN AND ARAB POSITION.

4. FAHMY ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE HEARD WE HAVE AGREED THAT GENEVA SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 15. HE FELT THAT AS "FRIEND," GOE SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT OUR VIEWS ARE AND WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON THAN HAS THUS FAR BEEN THE CASE. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE INTEND TO SEND A FULLER REPORT ON TALKS WITH BEGIN FOLLOWING THE VISIT. THE ORAL MESSAGE I HAD JUST DELIVERED WAS INTENDED SOLELY AS AN INTERIM COMMENT. FAHMY SAID THE PRESIDENT AND HE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE PROMISED FULLER REPORT. HE HOPED THAT IT WILL CONTAIN SOME INDICATION OF OUR VIEWS WHICH, HE NOTED, SADAT IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING.

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